



STATE OF CONNECTICUT • COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MINUTES OF THE MEETING JUNE 14, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman, Melinda Ferry at 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Yale Cantor, Sue Stack, Helen Filloramo, Anne Nickerson, Melinda Ferry, Hocine Baouche.

EXCUSED: Sue Hannigan

OTHERS PRESENT: Erin Graziani, Senior Center Director, Anna Turner, Elderly Outreach Caseworker, Diane Lasher-Penti, Youth Services Director.

PRESENTATION: Each staff member gave a 5-10 minute presentation on their programs and services followed by a brief question and answer period with commission members.

Erin Graziani, Senior Center Director stated that summer is a time for re-evaluating existing programs and services. A survey will be distributed to senior center participants to gauge their interest level in activities. This is also a time when new programs are introduced. The director told commission members that the new senior bus will arrive before the end of summer. The My Senior Center Computer Program has helped the transportation staff to streamline service and improve efficiency in scheduling. Ms. Graziani ended her presentation with an overview of a new exercise program to be provided by the North Central District Health Department through grant funding.

Anna Turner, Elderly Outreach Caseworker, shared with members the monthly programs and the extensive services offered as the outreach caseworker, municipal agent, C.H.O.I.C.E. Certified Counselor, and TRIAD coordinator. Ms. Turner is the service link with other agencies to help the elderly remain independent within their home. She assists with finding housing and long-short term health care options. In addition, Ms. Turner works with the senior center to provide informational programs and services that educate as well as inform.

Diane Lasher-Penti, Youth Services Director spoke about the Town of Ellington receiving a five year partnership funding grant to reduce underage drinking and other addictions. Youth Services provides program and services within the classroom at Windermere, Center and Crystal Lake Schools. Small group programs that encourage positive self-esteem, team work, and leadership are offered throughout the year. Youth Services provides limited counseling to youth and their families. Space limitation is a barrier to increase counseling or provide more programs outside of the classroom. Ms. Lasher-Penti ended on a positive note with the wonderful services /activities that RISE ABOVE has provided to 7th and 8th graders at the Middle School and to the community by helping at the Fair on the Green.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motioned (H. Baouche), Seconded (H. Filloramo) and approved by all those Present to accept the minutes of the May 10, 2010 minutes.

CORRECTIONS: H. Baouche pointed out a number of sentence structure/grammar errors within the minutes, but content of the minutes were correct.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The Recreation Department and Human Services are working together to review the process for accepting Kids 4 Care payment for summer camp. We continue to partner to provide campership for the summer recreation activities.

Human Services and the Senior Center will focus on a plan of action to begin discussions to build a new senior center and new senior housing. The Board of Selectmen will be asked to establish an ad hoc committee to study and make recommendations on these issues. Interested individuals will be asked to complete a Statement of Interest Form.

OLD BUSINESS: Before the new budget period begins, the commission will review the funding request application sent to contract agencies to include information as to whether agencies are funded by other municipalities, what percentage of fundraising makes up their budget, and are they funded by United Way or some other non-profit organization. This discussion will continue until a new application is finalized.

NEW BUSINESS: A brief discussion was held on whether a modular unit could be temporary answer to the space issue for youth services. At the end of the discussion, it was agreed that this would not be practical.

ADJOURNMENT: Motioned (Y. Cantor), Seconded (A. Nickerson) and passed by all those present to adjourn at 7:45 P.M.

Submitted by,

Doris R. Crayton
Director